

## VINYL TEST PRESSING GUIDELINES

A test pressing is the first opportunity to evaluate your project in its final analog format. Its purpose is to verify that no issues occurred during the lacquer cutting, plating or pressing stages before proceeding with full production.

Test pressings are always produced on 140gr black vinyl and without printed centre labels.

### What to check

When reviewing your test pressings, please verify:

- Track order and side sequence
- Correct audio version and mastering
- Locked grooves or special cut requests (if applicable)
- Custom etchings / runout inscriptions
- General playback consistency across all copies

We strongly recommend listening to at least one copy in full, then comparing any potential issue across the remaining copies.

If a defect appears consistently in the same position on all copies, please report it specifying:

- Side
- Track
- Timecode (as close as possible)
- Description of the issue

Photos or videos are always helpful during inspection.

### Important notes about vinyl playback

Vinyl is a physical and mechanical format. Light surface noise, occasional clicks, pops or low-level background noise are considered normal characteristics of the medium.

Test pressings are manufactured in very small quantities and may sometimes present slightly more surface noise compared to the final production run.

Please note that:

- Isolated clicks or pops appearing on only one copy are generally not considered defects
- Inner groove distortion may become more noticeable on long sides (especially over 18–20 minutes)
- Turntable setup has a major impact on playback quality

Before reporting playback issues, we always recommend testing the record on another properly calibrated turntable and checking:

- Stylus condition
- Tracking force



- Cartridge alignment
- Anti-skating settings

### **Lacquers supplied by client**

When lacquers or metal parts are supplied by the client, our control over the cutting process is limited.

In these cases, certain anomalies such as: clicks or pops, tonal imbalance, distortion, excessive compression or inner groove distortion may originate from the supplied source material or lacquer cut rather than from the pressing process itself.

For this reason, we always recommend carefully evaluating test pressings before approving full production.

Thank you for taking the time to review your test pressings carefully.

**AFG Record Manufacturing**